



Finalized Charter - 25 April 2017

Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Working Group

PURPOSE:

The United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) establishes the Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Working Group (MLAIWG) to help advance the applications of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence to problems of interest to the USGIF community.

Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence methods combined with advances in computational power have already shown promise in areas of interest to the USGIF community such as perceptual analysis. Many opportunities remain to advance applications of ML and AI to perceptual analysis and to the broader set of problems and challenges faced by the USGIF community. The dramatic growth in the amount of data available for processing and analysis also drives keen interest in increasing analysts' productivity through the application of ML and AI capabilities.

There are emerging technologies and techniques which might be brought to bear. ML and AI methods and technologies have become ubiquitous across the commercial markets, seen in everything from mobile telephones to automobiles. These same technologies, although present in the Government enterprise, are not nearly as pervasive.

USGIF intends that the MLAIWG help contribute to advancing ML and AI applications through information sharing, education, and collaboration across the GEOINT community, including industry, academic, and government participation.

OBJECTIVES:

The MLAIWG will seek to build a community of interest by focusing on the following topics:

- Near-term hard problems of interest to the USGIF community which might be addressed by ML and AI technologies and methods.
- Current and emerging ML and AI capabilities which have yet to find wide adoption in the USGIF community or application to problems of interest.
- Improving the productivity of analysts and decision-makers, and finding more efficient and effective ways to keep up with the growing amount of data to be processed and analyzed.
- Identify and address the impacts of ML and AI to community workforce training and development needs.

The MLAIWG will engage with appropriate groups to ensure there is clear understanding of any demands that ML and AI will place on the services and applications layers of USGIF community government agencies' information technology architectures. The MLAIWG will also address standards related to government use of MLAIWG and will provide findings to appropriate government stakeholders.

The MLAIWG Group will accomplish these goals through education, information, workshops, fora and other activities. The members of the MLAIWG will develop and deliver position papers, standards/specifications requirements, educational flyers, training programs, discussion sessions, and other efforts as necessary.

The MLAIWG will be disbanded at the discretion of USGIF leadership.

PRINCIPLES:

USGIF members in good standing shall be entitled to participate in MLAIWG meetings and other activities and to exercise voting rights on any matters as appropriate, which are before the Working Group. Non-USGIF members may participate but shall not serve as a Co-chair.

The MLAIWG may conduct both Working Group meetings and open meetings to carry out the purpose and objectives of the Working Group. Open meetings shall be announced through the USGIF and may be for general public attendance or may be limited to USGIF Members.

PRACTICES:

- Co-Chairs of the MLAIWG will be designated by the USGIF. The Co-Chairs will serve a 2-year term, with alternative year terms. The first Co-Chairs will be from the initial member organizations of the AI/ML Working Group. Co-Chair nominations will be held annually. Co-Chairs may be elected to no more than 2 consecutive terms (maximum 4 years).
- Meetings will be held on an as needed basis at a mutually agreed to time and location.
- All decisions of the working group shall be on a consensus basis unless the working group agrees to a different form of decision making.
- MLAIWG charter will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
- Subgroups can be established to address specific topics that fall outside the scope of the MLAIWG expertise at the discretion of the Co-Chairs.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in the MLAIWG shall generally be open to any entity who is a member of the USGIF in good standing and who has an interest in the issue or event being addressed. Non-USGIF members may participate, but not serve as a Co-chair. USGIF may limit membership in Working Groups to those entities who have a mission or business function, which directly supports the Purpose and Objectives of the Working Group. In such cases an Associate membership category may be established to provide the opportunity for participation of and interaction with other USGIF Members, which have a related interest in the Working Group.

Requirements of Participation and How to Join:

Entities who wish to become MLAIWG members shall submit a request to join to the Working Group Co-Chairs. The Working Group Co-Chairs will confirm USGIF membership standing with the USGIF and either confirm or disallow membership. Members are expected to actively participate in Working Group activities.

Funding of MLAIWG Activities:

The USGIF will provide staff support and other logistical assistance to the Working Group. Costs for the operation of Working Groups established to address industry specific topics will be borne by the Working Group members either by payment to USGIF or by direct payment by member organizations. Costs for Working Group seminars, luncheons and other similar events shall be covered either by the Working Group members or sponsorship by USGIF members.

Oversight:

Working Groups are subject to oversight by the USGIF CEO and COO and Designated Staff and exist through the authority of the USGIF to initiate and promote programs, which serve and advance the purposes and objectives of the Foundation. The Working Group may disband by giving notice through the Working Group Co-Chairs to the USGIF CEO and COO. The USGIF CEO retains the right to disband and terminate a Working Group at any time it is determined that it is no longer fulfilling its stated purpose or objectives.